

CLAIMS:

1. A method for addressing cells of a display panel (PDP), each cell corresponding to a pixel in response to a video signal,
characterized by the step of skipping (ALS) the addressing of those cells which are identified as being not active.
- 5 2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the video signal includes fields and each field is defined by a plurality of subfields,
characterized in that said skipping step is carried out during the addressing of the subfields.
- 10 3. The method according to claim 2, characterized in that all groups with identical subfield-data are grouped.
4. The method according to claim 3, characterized in that all lines with identical
15 subfield-data are grouped.
5. A device for addressing cells of a display panel (PDP), each cell corresponding to a pixel in response to a video signal,
characterized by means (ALS) for skipping the addressing of those cells which
20 are identified as being not active.
6. The device according to claim 5, further characterized by means for identifying those cells which are not active.
- 25 7. The device according to claim 6, further characterized by means for checking all the cells as to whether or not they are active.

8. The device according to claim 5, characterized in that said skipping means (ALS) is provided for skipping the addressing of a group of those cells which are identified as being not active.

5 9. The device according to claim 8, wherein each group is addressed during a predetermined group addressing period having a constant time interval for all groups, further characterized by means for grouping all groups having identical data and addressing them during one group addressing period.

10 10. The device according to claim 8, wherein the cells are arranged as a matrix array and each cell is positioned at an intersection of a line and a column, characterized in that said skipping means (ALS) are provided for skipping the addressing of a line where all cells are not active.

15 11. The device according to claim 9, characterized by means for grouping all lines with identical data and addressing them during one line addressing period.

12. The device according to claim 5, further characterized by means for setting up a skip-table indicating all the cells which are identified as being not active.

20 13. The device according to claim 12, characterized in that said skip-table indicates all the groups including those cells only which are identified as being not active.

14. The device according to claim 12, characterized in that said skip-table
25 indicates all the lines including those cells only which are identified as being not active.

15. The device according to claim 5, for addressing and driving discharge cells of a plasma display panel, the device further comprising
means for applying a sustain-level signal to cause a sustaining discharge in a
30 discharge cell for emitting light therefrom, and
means for determining the sustain-time by taking into account the extra time gained to be expected due to the operation of said skipping means.

16. A display panel apparatus, in particular a plasma display panel apparatus, comprising the device according to claim 5.